February 18, 2025

The Marion Public Library Board of Trustees met Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. on the second floor in the Library Program Room of the Marion Public Library. Present were Mrs. Pogue, Mr. Owen, Mr. Gilmore, Ms. Sumpter, Mrs. Nicholson, and Mrs. Mathias. Jonie Riddle, Business Manager and Jaime Pitt, Director were also in attendance. One in attendance on Zoom.

Library Board President Melissa Pogue called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Director Jaime Pitt introduced Gabe Franks, the new Collections Manager at the Marion Public Library and History Center, who joined in October 2024. Gabe shared his previous experience at the Howard County Historical Society and the National Park Service. He outlined plans to implement a new Collecting Policy at the History Center.

Mr. Franks emphasized the importance of creating a collection plan for the museum's 30,000 objects, mostly housed in the Carnegie building. He highlighted the need for physical and intellectual control, clear documentation, and better public access. Noting that items are dispersed throughout the museum and may not align with its mission, he suggested reviewing the collection and possibly disposing of irrelevant items. He also presented a video on collections planning, pointing out terminology and practice differences across institutions.

Mr. Franks spoke about the importance of rationalization in museums, emphasizing the need to refine collections for better accessibility. He outlined the steps involved, such as evaluating relevance, quality, and condition, and highlighted the necessity for a structured approach and a formal policy. Addressing challenges like inconsistent cataloging, missing provenance, and the need for mold remediation, Mr. Franks also proposed digitizing maps and artwork. Additionally, he requested board approval to use eBay as a platform to raise funds for museum projects.

A motion was made for the Marion Public Library & History Center to utilize the online auction website eBay to sell museum items. The motion was made by Mrs. Mathias and seconded by Mr. Gilmore. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt the Collecting Plan for the History Center. The motion was made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion was unanimously approved.

The minutes from the January 21, 2024, meeting was approved following a motion by Ms. Sumpter, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson. The motion passed unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Gilmore, seconded by Mr. Owen, the Treasurer's report and payment of the docket were unanimously accepted and payment authorized. The register of claims is made as a part of these minutes.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of $3,646,816.66 in the Library Operating Fund as of January 31, 2025.

Business:

Finances: Ms. Riddle reported that the entire insurance premium is paid at the beginning of the year, which will cause it to appear as an outlier on the financial statement.

PPS Update & Budget: The board was informed that the final renderings and scope of work for the Courtyard Project were complete and had been sent to five contractors. The deadline for bids is February 26, 2025. The quote for Synlawn installation was presented to the board. A motion was made by Ms. Sumpter and seconded by Mrs. Nicholson to approve the quote for the Synlawn installation. The motion passed unanimously.

Concrete: The quote for the concrete work exceeded the previously approved amount of $10,000. The Director requested an additional $269 to secure the price for completing the terrace work. A motion was made by Mrs. Nicholson and seconded by Mrs. Mathias to approve the additional funds. The motion passed unanimously.

BetterWorld: Director Jaime Pitt provided an overview of the platform Better World, which supports auctions, giveaways, ticketing, and crowdfunding. MPL hopes to engage the community and seek donations for the Courtyard Project. A motion was made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Owen to authorize MPL to utilize the BetterWorld platform for seeking donations. The motion passed unanimously.

Computer Use/Internet Policy: The Computer Use/Internet Policy was presented and reviewed by the board. Following discussion, a motion to approve the policy was made by Mrs. Nicholson and seconded by Mrs. Mathias. The motion was approved unanimously. After further discussion, Mr. Gilmore proposed an amendment to the policy to include the term "technologies." A motion to amend the policy was made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mrs. Mathias. The motion passed unanimously.

Non-Resident Fee: The Director presented a proposal to increase the non-resident library card fee from $60 to $64 in order to maintain a balance between affordability and the library's operational costs. The fee increase would take effect in April, with a 30-day notice period for existing cardholders to renew at the current rate. A motion was made by Mrs. Nicholson and seconded by Ms. Sumpter to increase the non-resident library card fee to $64. The motion passed unanimously.

Salary & Compensation: The Director presented the new 2025 Salary and Compensation plan to the board. A motion to accept the plan as presented was made by Ms. Sumpter and seconded by Mr. Owen. The motion passed unanimously.
The Director stepped out of the room to allow the board to discuss the Director's 2025 salary. Board President, Melissa Pogue, facilitated the discussion on the proposed salary. After the discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gilmore to increase the Director's salary to